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BLM Reduces Mining Claim Location and Annual Maintenance Fees

The Bureau of Land Management has reduced mining claim location and maintenance fees. The fee reduction is a provision of Public Law 108-447, Division E, Title I, Section 120, which became law on December 8, 2004.

The new public law effectively reverses the Bureau's July 1, 2004, location and maintenance fee increase, and instructs the Department of the Interior to establish a nationwide tracking system to determine and address the length of time from submission of a plan of operations to mine on public lands to final approval of the submission.

All mining claims or sites that were recorded with BLM prior to December 8 must pay a location fee of \$30 and a maintenance fee of \$125. Mining claims or sites that were recorded with BLM on or after December 8 must pay a location fee of \$25 and a maintenance fee of \$100, until further notice.

Those who recorded mining claims or sites with the BLM on or after December 8, and have already paid the location fee of \$30 and the maintenance fee of \$125 per mining claim or site, are entitled to a refund of \$5 for the location fee and \$25 for the maintenance fee. Overpayments will be refunded within 4-6 weeks.